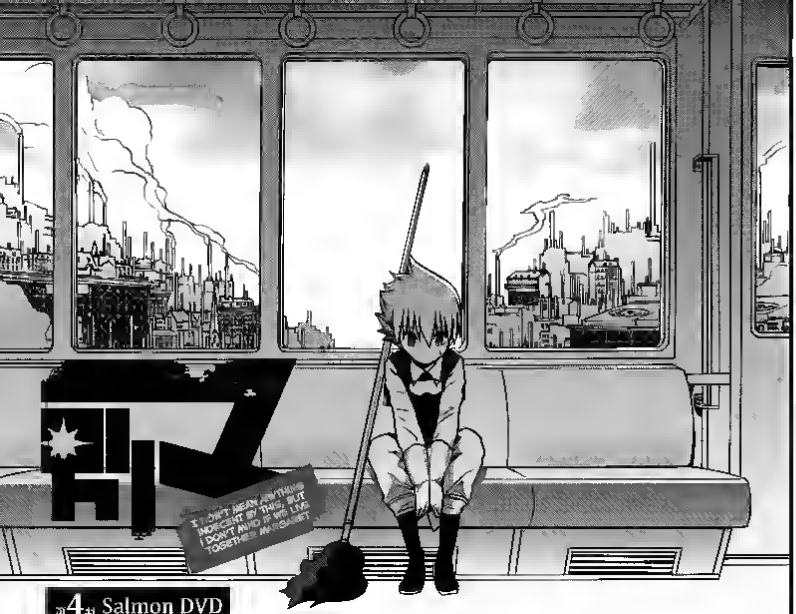


24th Salmon DVD

二階堂ヒカル Hikaru Nikaido

*Just a reminder: "Shiawase" usually means "happiness" but it's a monster "Shiawase" Paze met at the end of Chapter 1 as a "death bringing figure" (happens to be pronounced "Shiawase")

*Random Note: I wonder if it's just a coincidence that he has the same name as one of the founders of Dolce &Gabbana

STORY

The world was suddenly plunged in blue mist where people don't age or die. Faze Diamond a chimney worker who is tired of his misfortune is in search of "Happiness." While doing so a beautiful young lady falls from the sky. Could Faze's meeting with this girl Margaret Howell change his destiny..?!

I AM CYNTHIA'S SUPERIOR, STEFANO GABBANA.

EVEN THOUGH I'VE HEARD ABOUT THE POWER OF YOUR EYES FROM CYNTHIA

IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S NOT THE ONLY POWER THAT IT HAS BUT OTHER THINGS ALSO

IT CAN BE SEEN WITH THE POWER YOU HOLD

BUT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE LOOKED INTO SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE..

RIGHT NOW, I WANT YOUR HELP USING THOSE EYES OF YOURS

キャー

HOW?

...!

TEN MINUTES LATER.
I THINK I'LL DECLI...
CCNZ
IT'S OK IF YOU DON'T GIVE ME YOUR ANSWER STRAIGHT AWAY.
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE.
See you— Come again—
DAZO-KUN!

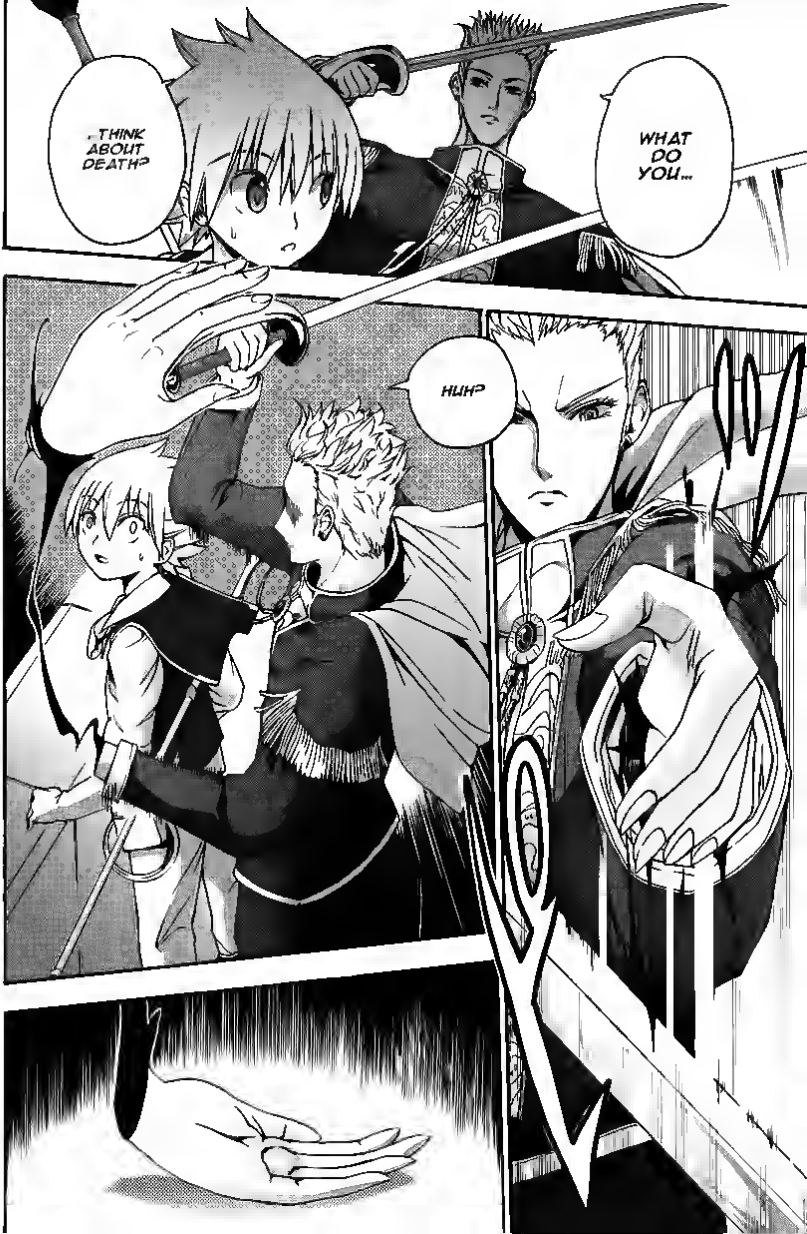
G-GOVERN-MENT OFFICIAL!?
OH MY, I ALMOST FORGOT
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THAT GIRL?
ガコン
Brussels-Acropolis
The New Berlaymont European Commission Headquarters
PAZE-KUN, DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
HUH?!
NO, NOT YET...
OH REALLY? THEN HOW ABOUT YOU GO OUT WITH ME?

A VIRGIN, HUH?
I WAS ONLY JOKING.
WHA... I'M MALE!
THAT S-
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
I'VE ALSO GOT MARGARET

BERLAYMONT IS THE BUILDING WHERE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION IS LOCATED.
WHEN THE BLUE MIST APPEARED AROUND THE WORLD, IT WAS THE FIRST PLACE THAT FORMALLY RECOGNIZED THE EXISTENCE OF THE BLUE MIST, AND ALSO THE PLACE WHERE THE EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS WAS ESTABLISHED.
EVEN NOW, THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S GENERAL STRUCTURE HASN'T CHANGED FROM THEN UNTIL NOW. THIS PLACE HAS FUNCTIONED AS THE UNIFIED EMERGENCY HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BLUE MIST.
BUT I REMEMBER COMING HERE BEFORE...?
HUH...?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE COME TO BERLAYMONT AFTER ITS REMODELING.
THIS WAY
I CAME HERE WITH MY FATHER...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...

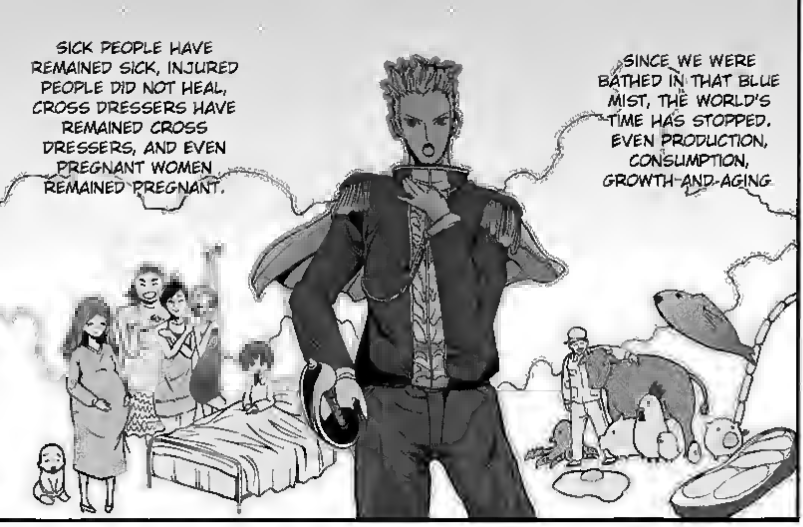
I WANT YOU TO KNOW
WHAT "SHIAWASE" HAS BESTOWED UPON US LIVING BEINGS.
IT'S DUTY WHEN IT CAN BE SEEN.

WOW!
THAT BIG...? BUT FOR OUR COUNTRY TO HAVE SUCH A SYSTEM UNDERGROUND...
THE UNDER-GROUND WAS ORIGINALLY AN ESTABLISHMENT BUILT TO CONFINE IMMORTAL PRISONERS
BUT THIS WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT
THIS IS A PLACE WHERE THE BODIES KILLED BY "SHAWASE" ARE STORED
.....WHA!
T-THIS IS, THAT...
IT HAS BEEN DESERTED FOR 300 YEARS WITH A FEW RETRIEVALS...
BY THE WAY, FAZE-KUN...
WHAT KIND OF ROOM... NO, IS IT A WAREHOUSE?
IT'S SO WIDE YOU CAN'T SEE IT FROM AFAR...
THIS IS ONE THIRD OF THIS COUNTRY'S SPACE


„THINK ABOUT DEATH?
WHAT DO YOU...
HUH?

HEY... WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
TO THE LIVING THINGS BATHED IN THE MIST
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO OR HOW MUCH DAMAGE THEY TAKE..
..THEY WILL REVIVE REGENERATED
AND ONLY THE PAIN FROM THAT WOULD REMAIN
I'VE TRIED VARIOUS WAYS OF KILLING MYSELF, BUT IT'S NO GOOD.
IT ALWAYS ENDS THE SAME WAY.
WE WHO HAVE BECOME UNABLE TO AGE OR DIE HAVE RECEIVED AN UNKNOWN BIRD THAT ATTACKS US
IT HAS FORMED A NEW SHAPE OF DEATH

THE PEOPLE HERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THAT "SHIAWASE."
BUT THESE BODIES DON'T BLEED. IT'S AS IF THEY ARE STILL LIVING. THEY REMAIN LIKE THIS WITHOUT ROTTING.
THOSE CORPSES. DON'T BLEED OR ROT?!
THE "SHIAWASE" THAT BRINGS DEATH.
I WONDER IF THAT IS REALLY DEATH.
IT'S FULL OF THINGS WE DO NOT KNOW
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL THAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE BLUE MIST


SICK PEOPLE HAVE REMAINED SICK, INJURED PEOPLE DID NOT HEAL, CROSS DRESSERS HAVE REMAINED CROSS DRESSERS, AND EVEN PREGNANT WOMEN REMAINED PREGNANT.
SINCE WE WERE BATHED IN THAT BLUE MIST, THE WORLD'S TIME HAS STOPPED. EVEN PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, GROWTH-AND-AGING

AND THEN, WHAT IS THIS "SHIAWASE"?
WHAT ABOUT NOT DYING OR AGING?
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS BLUE MIST?

LIE WITHIN YOUR EYES.
AND THOSE ANSWERS PROBABLY...

EYES THAT CAN SEE THE TRUTH THAT WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT.
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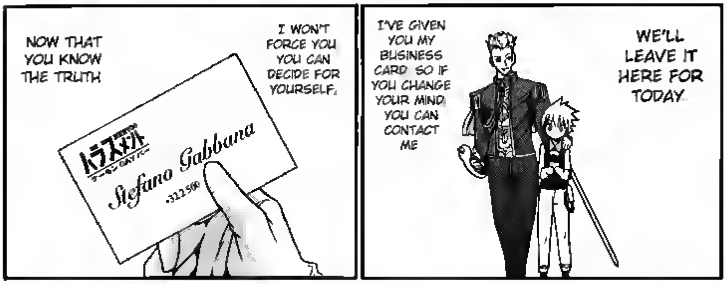
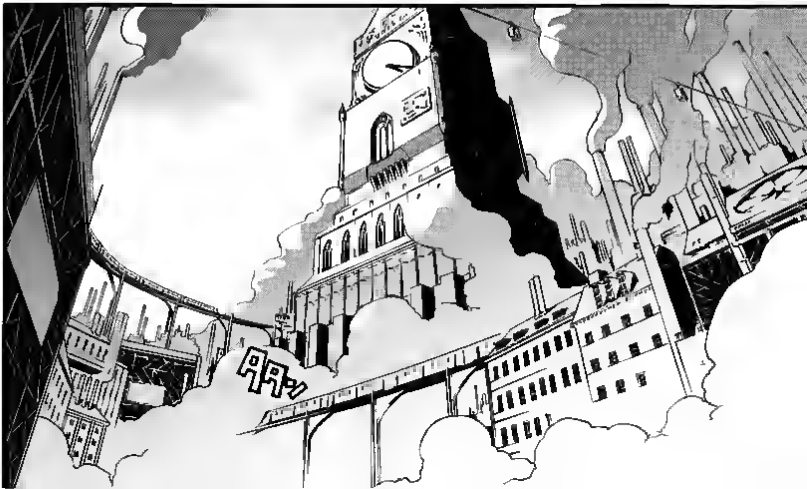

NOW THAT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH
I WON'T FORCE YOU YOU CAN DECIDE FOR YOURSELF.
Stefano Gabbana
I'VE GIVEN YOU MY BUSINESS CARD. SO IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, YOU CAN CONTACT ME
WE'LL LEAVE IT HERE FOR TODAY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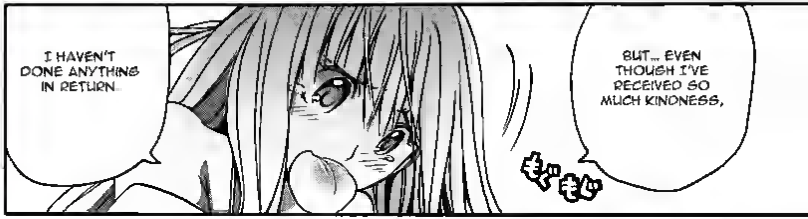
HMM?
MARGARET
WHY ARE YOU LIKE THAT?
WHAT?! PAZE-KUN GOT TAKEN AWAY BY A BUNCH OF HOMOSEXUALS?!
PAZE GAVE ME THE KEYS BUT..
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF PAZE IS MADE INTO A HOMOSEXUAL?
GAVE YOU THE KEYS?!
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER?
YEAH

I'M REALLY THANKFUL OF PAZE.
HE HAS HELPED ME A LOT.
そもそも
SERIOUSLY?!
?
ガシッ


BUT... EVEN THOUGH I'VE RECEIVED SO MUCH KINDNESS,
I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING IN RETURN.
そもそも

DURING SUCH TIMES,
YOU JUST NEED TO GIVE PAZE-KUN THE SAME THING THAT HAS MADE YOU HAPPY
WHAT HAS MADE ME HAPPY...
ニコッ

HAH...
I'M PROBABLY LATE
IT SEEMS THAT I ENDED UP DITCHING WORK AGAIN...
I WONDER IF MARGARET IS WORRIED...
WHY'S YOUR STUPID MUG LOOKING SO DOWN?
CYNTHIA!

SO CYNTHIA IS ALSO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL?
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S EASY TO SEARCH FOR VARIOUS THINGS AS A CHIMNEY WORKER
AMAZING. I KNEW SHE WAS GOOD, BUT TO THAT EXTENT...
SO, HAVE YOU DECIDED?
NOT YET..
I SEE
BUT IF IT'S JUST SEEING "SHIAWASE," THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO CAN DO THAT.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULD ASK SOMEONE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE I'M NOT NEEDED, AM I? I'M ALSO WORRIED ABOUT MARGARET.
OW!
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS KICK ME?!
OOMPH!!

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT GIRL! ASK SOMEONE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE!
AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE REAL STATE OF "SHIWASE" YOU CAN STILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
THE REAL REASON YOU'RE HESITATING IS SOMETHING ELSE, RIGHT? TELL ME CLEARLY
.....
YOU,
TRUTHFULLY JUST DON'T WANT TO DIE, RIGHT?

FOR 300 YEARS, I'VE BEEN LIVING WITHOUT THINKING ABOUT DEATH. AND THEN, TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO SEE IT.
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING SOMETHING YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT!
THAT'S RIGHT! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
...TH-
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, THEY'D BE SCARED, RIGHT?!
IF THERE WERE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO COULD SEE IT, NO ONE WOULD ASK SOMEONE LIKE YOU FOR HELP
OVERWHELMINGLY TOO FEW..
BUT, THEIR NUMBERS ARE TOO SCARCE
IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE OTHER THAN YOU THAT CAN SEE "SHIAWASE."
YOU'RE RIGHT

BUT RIGHT NOW...
IT'S ALSO TRUE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO GET TAKEN AWAY BY "SHIAWASE" WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING.
AFTER I SAID ALL THIS IF YOU STILL REJECT THIS OFFER
YOU...
ARE SERIOUSLY TRASH.

HUH?
WOW!
WHAT'S THIS? ONIGIRI?!
MARGARET?
SHE DIDN'T COME BACK BEFORE ME?
THE LIGHTS AREN'T ON
IT'S UN-LOCKED?!

A LETTER...?
COULD SHE HAVE ...MADE THIS FOOD AND WAITED FOR ME!?
MARGARET MADE THESE FOR ME...? ON THIS DINING TABLE...

COULD IT BE, THAT MARGARET LEFT?!
!
NO WAY!
I NEVER BECAME A HOMO-SEXUAL!!
THANK YOU.
EVEN IF PAUL BECAME A HOMOSEXUAL, THESE FEELINGS WILL NOT CHANGE.
MARGARET

JUST GONE...
IT'LL BE LIKE THAT TIME...
MARGARET!!
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ
ハァ
*Sfx 'n bubbles' Huff
キシッ sound
NO WAY!!...

MAR-
-GARET?

WHY...?!
MA-
WAIT, MARGA...
HUH? ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
HUH?
BUMP
ドキドキドキドキドキドキドキ
*SFx Thump X7
WAI...!

二階堂ヒカル先生に励ましのお便りを出そう！

宛先

〒102-8019
千代田区三番町5-25 ホーマットホライゾンビル5F
㈱マッグガーデン コミックブレイド編集部
二階堂ヒカル先生係

EVEN WHEN SHE'S SLEEPING, SHE NATURALLY DEFENDS HERSELF...
THAT'S RIGHT... SHE'S BEEN CHASED FOR 300 YEARS
SHIAWASE
MARGARET, WAKE UP!
SOMEHOW, WAKE UP!
HUH?
ALRIGHT
.....
ZZZ
THIS IS A SHOUNEN* MAGAZINE... NO, THIS IS A ROOM!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT—!
*male usually around 18 and younger

がしっ
がしっ
*#$% SPECIAL?!!
WAAA AAH!!
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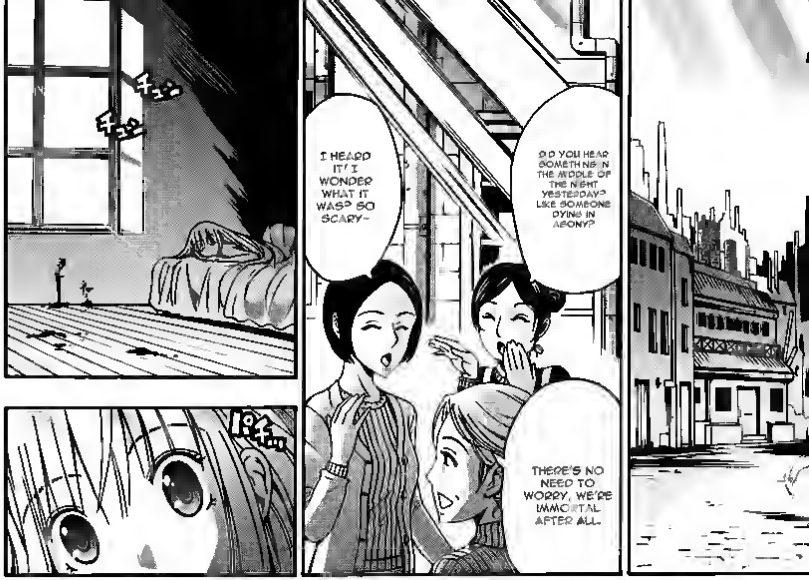
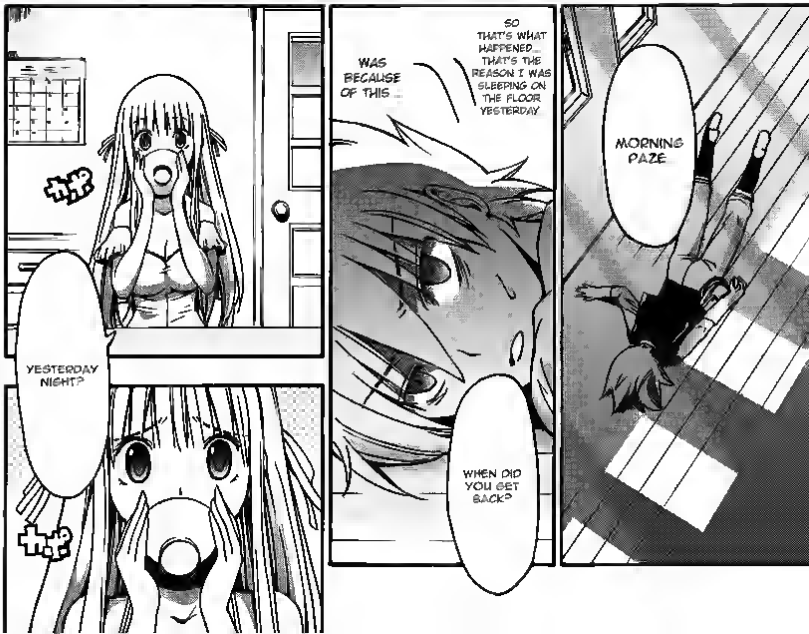
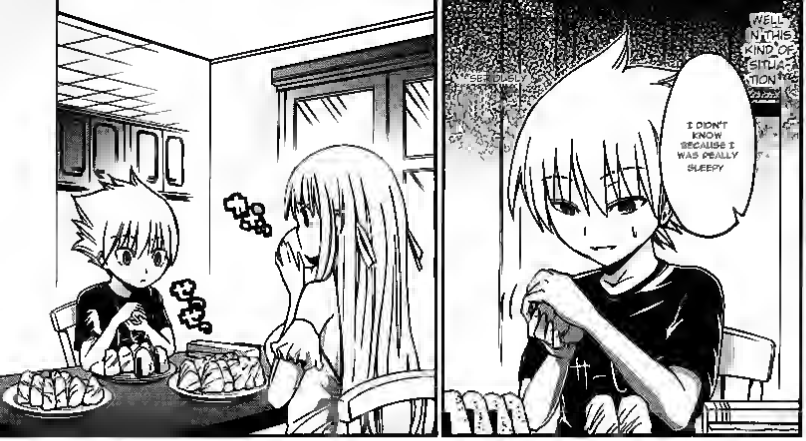
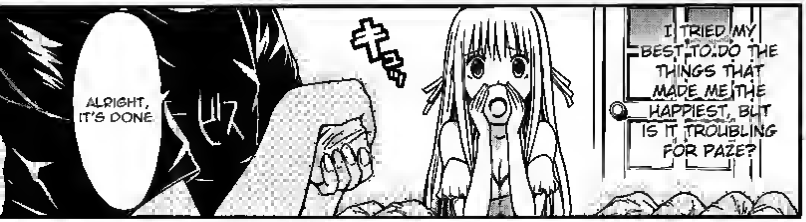
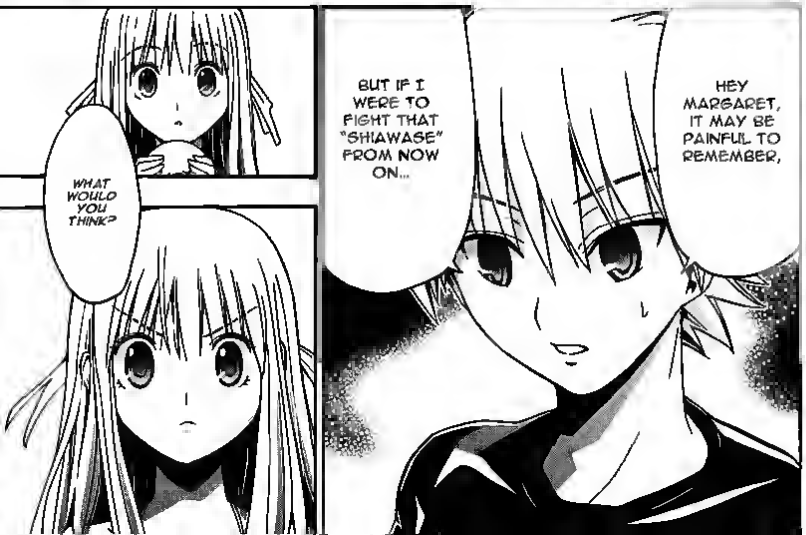

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT YESTERDAY? LIKE SOMEONE DYING IN AGONY?
I HEARD IT TOO. I WONDER WHAT IT WAS? SO SCARY~
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY, WE'RE IMMORTAL AFTER ALL.


MORNING PAZE
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED... THAT'S THE REASON I WAS SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR YESTERDAY.
WAS BECAUSE OF THIS...
WHEN DID YOU GET BACK?
YESTERDAY NIGHT?


WELL, IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION
I DIDN'T KNOW BECAUSE I WAS REALLY SLEEPY


I TRIED MY BEST TO DO THE THINGS THAT MADE ME THE HAPPIEST, BUT IS IT TROUBLING FOR PAZE?
ALRIGHT, IT'S DONE

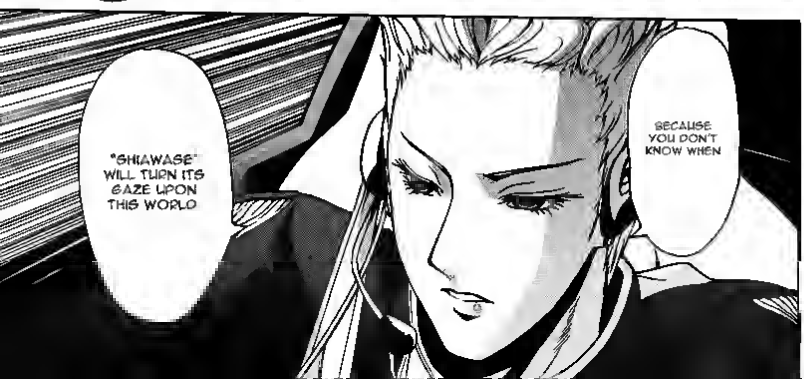

HEY MARGARET, IT MAY BE PAINFUL TO REMEMBER,
BUT IF I WERE TO FIGHT THAT "SHIAWASE" FROM NOW ON...
WHAT WOULD YOU THINK?

マンガ魂、縦横無尽。
毎月30日発売!! BLADE
EVERY 30th IN SALE!

SHE'S GONE OVER THE TOP AGAIN
TRUTHFULLY, I JUST WANTED HER TO TELL ME TO NOT DO SOMETHING SO FRIGHTENING
AH, YEAH
LEAVING THAT ASIDE,
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
THAT ONIGIRI... YOU MADE IT FOR ME,
FOR WHEN I CAME BACK, RIGHT?
UM...
THANK YOU.

YEAH
I'LL MAKE THEM AGAIN ♪
WHAT'S WRONG PAZE?
POSSIBLY, BE...?
COULD THESE BIRDS...

I WONDER WHAT THAT KID WILL DO
YOU FOLLOW THE GOVERNMENT'S PLANS BUT I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT AT ALL
I
I'M NOT ON EITHER SIDE
JUST WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH BEHIND "SHIAWASE"
HE'S A LITTLE CHICK WITH NOTHING TO PROTECT
BUT HE'LL FINALLY BE THE THIRD PERSON


BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN
"SHIAWASE" WILL TURN ITS GAZE UPON THIS WORLD

THAT CARELESS GUY MEETS WITH MANY ACCIDENTS
THEN THAT'S ALL.
HE'S A REALLY INDECISIVE PERSON, UNDERSTOOD
My how cute!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
I'LL HELP.
BEHIND CYNTHIA IS...!
monthly comic BLADE 5